

**LISTING/AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1-22. (Canceled)

23.(currently amended) A balanced ultrasonic surgical instrument comprising:

an ultrasonic transmission rod having a proximal end and a distal end;  
and

a balance region including first and second balance asymmetries wherein the balance region extends from a node point at the distal end of the ultrasonic transmission rod to a proximal end of a curved ultrasonic surgical end effector, wherein the curved ultrasonic surgical end effector further comprises a concave top surface defining a first length including a central ridge contiguous with the first length and wherein

the curved end effector and the balance region are bisected by a plane of symmetry, the curved end effector being substantially symmetrical on either side of the plane of symmetry, the first balance asymmetry comprising a flat surface in the balance region wherein the first flat surface is substantially perpendicular to the plane of symmetry and the second balance asymmetry comprises a second flat surface in the balance region opposite the first flat surface wherein the second flat surface is substantially perpendicular to the plane of symmetry.

24.(Previously Presented) The balanced ultrasonic surgical instrument according to Claim 23, wherein the first and second balance asymmetries are positioned to counter torque created in the proximal end of the end effector by the curved ultrasonic surgical end effector.

25.(Previously Presented) The balanced ultrasonic surgical instrument according to Claim 24, wherein the first and second balance asymmetries are

positioned such that transverse vibrations in the ultrasonic transmission rod are substantially equal to zero.

26.(Previously Presented) The balanced ultrasonic surgical instrument according to Claim 24 wherein the balance ratio of the transmission waveguide is less than 1:10.

27.(Previously Presented) The balanced ultrasonic surgical instrument according to Claim 26 wherein the balance ratio of the transmission waveguide is less than 1:200.

28.(canceled)

29.(currently amended) The balanced ultrasonic surgical instrument according to Claim [28] 23 wherein the first balance asymmetry is shorter than the second balance asymmetry.

30-31.(canceled)

32.(Previously Presented) The curved ultrasonic surgical end effector according to Claim 23, wherein the ultrasonic end effector further comprises a convex bottom surface.

33.(Previously Presented) The curved ultrasonic surgical end effector according to Claim 32, wherein the convex bottom surface is wider than the central ridge.

34.(Previously Presented) The balanced ultrasonic surgical instrument according to Claim 23, wherein the first and second balance asymmetries are symmetrical about a plane bisecting the central ridge.